



זכרון ZichronNote

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVI, Number 3

August 1996

LOCAL GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS Meetings of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, meeting schedules are as follows:

San Francisco: Sunday, Doors open 12:30 p.m., program begins 1 p.m.

Fort Mason Center, Marina Blvd. at Buchanan Street

Building C, Room 205 (or as indicated below)

Free to members, \$3.00 for non-members, applicable towards membership

Palo Alto: Monday, 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m. (Please call Dana Kurtz if you need directions)

Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela (Near Foothill Blvd. and Arastradero Rd.)

- Mon Aug 19** **Palo Alto:** *19th and Early 20th Century Sources Available at the Hoover Institution.* **Dr. Gordon McDaniel**, Slavic cataloger at the Hoover Institution, and member of the Association of Professional Genealogists will speak about the Russian business directories and other late 19th- and early 20th-century sources.
- Sun Sep 8** **San Francisco:** *(Note Date Change) Beyond the Death Certificate.* **Gene Kaufman** of Sinai Memorial Chapel will tell us about the types of information collected by funeral homes and what is available to the genealogist.
- Mon Oct 21** **Palo Alto:** Regular Meeting
- Sun Nov 17** **San Francisco:** *11th Annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop.* Special four-hour program beginning at 11 a.m. will feature small working groups, each with an expert leader.
- Mon Dec 16** **Palo Alto:** Regular Meeting

National Archives—Pacific Sierra Branch Classes 3000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno

Note: For NARA classes, preregistration is highly recommended as a minimum of 12 attendees is required for the class to be held.

All classes will take place between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.. Cost of classes is \$15 with preregistration, \$20 at the door. Call (415) 876-9009 for reservations and further information.

- Fri Aug 9** *Military Part II, Civil War to World War II*
- Fri Sep 20** *Passenger Arrivals and Naturalization Records*
- Fri Nov 1** *Beginning Genealogy Workshop (Advanced registration REQUIRED)*

Calendar of Events for other Bay Area Genealogical Societies on Page 5

ZichronNote

Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

ZichronNote is published four times per year at the beginning of February, May, August and November. Deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submittals. Contributions may be submitted on 3-1/2-inch floppy disks in DOS or Macintosh format or e-mailed to RWeissJGS@aol.com

Reprinting of material in *ZichronNote* is permitted when there is no explicit prohibition and provided that source attribution is made.

Family Finder queries are free to members. Non-members may place queries for \$5.00 each limited to 25 words not including searcher's name, address and telephone number.

Correspondence relating to items for publication, or requests for back issues, should be addressed to the editor.

Production Note: This issue of *ZichronNote* was created with an Apple@Macintosh™ Performa 6320CD, ClarisWorks™ Version 4.0 software and an Apple@Stylewriter II printer.

Advertising: Display advertising is accepted. The rate for a 2-column-inch (3-1/2 x 2 inch, business card sized) insertion will be \$10.00 per issue, quarter-page ad \$20.00, half-page ad \$35.00, full-page ad \$60.00. Ads must be camera-ready, relate to Jewish genealogy and be in good taste.

Membership in the SFBA JGS is open to anyone interested in Jewish genealogy. Dues are \$20.00 per calendar year. The society is exempt per section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Make check out to "SFBA JGS" and send to: Sherrill Laszlo, Treasurer, 34 Craig Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.

Society Address:

SFBA-JGS, P. O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147

President: Dana L. Kurtz

415-921-6761, dlkurtz@ix.netcom.com

Vice-President: Gayle Leyton

415-397-0110, tangun@ix.netcom.com

Secretary: Marian Rubin, 415-668-3404, merubin@aol.com

Treasurer: Sherrill Laszlo

510-655-6789, laszlo@uclink4.berkeley.edu

Membership Chair: Sita Likuski

510-538-4249, SitaL@aol.com

Program Chair: Gayle Leyton

415-397-0110, tangun@ix.netcom.com

Librarian: Judith Baston, 415-285-4616, jrbaston@aol.com

Founder/Historian: Martha Wise, 415-564-9927

ZichronNote Editor: Robert Weiss

415-424-1622, RWeissJGS@aol.com

Meetings: Odd-numbered months— 3rd Sunday of each month, 1 p.m. at Fort Mason Center (Marina at Buchanan), San Francisco. **Even-numbered months**— 3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Kol Emeth, 4175 Manuela Avenue (near Arastradero & Foothill), Palo Alto.

SFBA-JGS Web Site: <http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs>

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

I hope this issue of *ZichronNote* reflects the glow and vitality of the recently-concluded 15th Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy. We're back home and are reflecting on the high-level papers we heard, memories of visits with East-Coast relatives, and research opportunities afforded in the Boston area. Members who could not attend would do well to listen to the tapes while reviewing the syllabus.

This was one of the finest conferences I have attended in terms of its high professional level, smoothness of operation, quality syllabus, resource guide and preparation of local facilities. Even the quality of the (kosher) banquet was noteworthy. The JGS of Greater Boston has earned the "kudos" of the entire community.

Dana Kurtz, Judy Baston and I try to bring to you a taste of the Seminar and we reprint Warren Blatt's summary of still-available seminar materials.

San Francisco Bay Area resources are an ongoing focus of this Journal. Gayle Leyton reports that the San Francisco Recorder is computerizing. Bert Oppenheim—our "mole" at the National Archives Pacific Sierra Branch in San Bruno—reports that they have recently obtained a record group on Jews who had their German citizenship annulled and I abstract a local news article about the microfilming accord between the Russian archives and the Hoover Institution. There is expanded coverage in this issue on local genealogical events and meetings.

Late-breaking news concerns the completion of the agreement to remove holocaust victims' names from the IGI.

The "A's have it" in this issue. Barry Klezmer's Vienna Austria research trip is described and a notice of Austrian reparations by Allan Blecher of London is pulled off JewishGen. Rob Weisskirch describes his research trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Paul Armony announces the formation of a JGS in Argentina. Argentina researchers might also borrow the Seminar tape on Jewish immigration to Argentina from our library. Both Barry and Rob have excellent tips for researchers, as does Dana Kurtz in her President's Message describing her recent Latvian trip.

Not to neglect the 50-percent or so members who are on-line, Dana Kurtz presents a down-to-earth tutorial on the REIPP database and how you can subscribe, unsubscribe and make retrievals. We also note that the JGFF has gone on-line. Updates and retrievals can now be made from your computer.

Sherrill Stern Laszlo initiates a new column called "Begin at the Beginning" in response to our new members' requests for information on basic tools and strategies. Also, our November meeting will be a workshop for all level researchers.

Robert Weiss

SOCIETY PAGES

President's Message

Dana Kurtz

I'd like to focus on the virtue of preparedness. Whether visiting relatives you know well, or traveling to your ancestral town, it is nearly impossible to be completely equipped for the surprises that occur.

In packing for my recent trip to Lithuania and Latvia, my biggest dilemma was "what genealogy related papers to take?" Paper is heavy. I am small and must consider everything carefully. Do I take every family tree, even though two families are from Ukraine? How much detail do I need? What about photographs, maps, newspaper articles? On a scale of one to ten, I give myself an eight after returning home. Not bad for a first timer to the old country, but here's why I missed two points:

An unexpected surprise was my meeting my cousin Luiba. As my great-grandmother left "Lithuania" in 1888, you can imagine what a stunning discovery this was. Luiba believed that all who remained were two cousins elsewhere in the world. I was thrilled to unfold a family tree and show her the names of over 250 people to whom she was related. I also showed her a photograph of my great-grandmother as an old woman. Luiba was astonished because her grandmother was the spitting image of my great-grandmother. What I neglected to bring were photographs of my great-grandmother's children and grandchildren. I missed the opportunity to follow familial resemblances down through people we each knew. I will be forever glad that I took two copies of that family tree, so I could place one in the hands of a cousin I never dreamt I would meet.

Why bring information on family from other parts of the world? In Riga we met with Rabbi Natan Barkan. Surprise! My mother's maiden name is Barkan. Her family came from the Grodno area. Even though it was the Sabbath, this pious man could not resist looking over the family tree I presented. He drew me aside, told me of his own family and assured me that if there were Cohanim in my family, we were surely related. Nor could he resist retrieving a book from his study to show me references to his uncles in the U.S. He made me promise to pursue our tenuous bond, and send him all the information I could accumulate.

I recently visited a survivor from one of "my towns". At the last minute I grabbed four random pages from a yizkor book, showing five photographs. He looked them over discarding each until he stopped at the last page and stared. "That's my sister Ruchel". Ruchel was 15 when she was killed in 1942. How I wish I had brought the entire yizkor

book with me. Sure, I can mail him a copy, but then I'll miss the stories that flow following recognition. Next time I'll be better prepared.

Member News

New Members

We welcome the following new members and hope that you will consider taking advantage of the programs and materials we are providing. And by all means keep in contact with your Board so that we can make this your Society.

Barry & Amy Asin, Redwood City

Terry Bodkin, San Jose

Rayne Dessayer, Sonoma

Paula Fleisher, San Francisco

Antoinette Gordy, Pleasant Hill

Jules Greenblatt, Palo Alto

Hedy Krasnobrod, San Francisco

Elisa Lewak, Oakland

Morris S. Ludwig, Sonoma

Ellen Massie, Mill Valley

Barbara Mordkowitz, Mill Valley

Sidney Orr, Redwood Estates

Linda Marie Paterson, Santa Rosa

Jan Rosenberg Potts, San Francisco

David Rubin, Pacifica

Malcolm Scott Singer, Novato

Nina Sitron, Melville, NY

Eugene and Adele Zauber, San Francisco

Edward Galland Zelinsky, Tiburon

E-mail Addresses and Corrections

Judy Baston	jrbaston@aol.com
Marla Drucker	marla_drucker@ix.netcom.com
Dan Goodman	Dan.Goodman@msn.com
Betty Kalis	BKalis@aol.com
David Lui	LUIDH@aol.com
Ron Neuman	ZackBo@aol.com
Bert Oppenheim	bert.oppenheim@worldnet.att.net
Shirley Radding	SBRadding@aol.com
Alan Wachtel	Wachtel@aol.com

Address Changes

Shirley Epstein, 1111 Beacon St., No. 63, Brookline, MA 02146
Jim Hannum, 350 Bay St., No. 100/125, San Francisco, CA 94133, (415) 433-6634
Martin Lefkowitz, 50 Chumasero Dr., Apt. 7E, San Francisco, CA 94132, (415) 586-7856
Irv Olender, 912 Capri Drive, Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 379-0818

Donations

We thank those members who choose to contribute above their basic membership to enable us to acquire additional library materials and augment the resources in our local archives and libraries.

Morris S. Ludwig, Sonoma--**Patron**

We all wish Dan Leeson a rapid recovery, and hope he will be fit enough to join us in Paris next year.

Library Additions

Mary Thompson has donated a copy of the 1907-1908 American Jewish Yearbook

Books

The German Minority Census of 1939: An Introduction and Register, Thomas K. Edlund, Avotaynu, 1996

Microfiche

- *Index to Memorial to the Jews Deported from France*; Avotaynu, 1996
- *Obuda Census of 1850: Index and Complete Census*, Richard Panchyk, Avotaynu, 1996

New Tapes from the

15th Annual Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy

4. *Israel: The Shortest Detour to Your European Ancestors*, Sallyann Amdur Sack
12. *European History for the Jewish Genealogist*, Jack Arbeiter
17. *Researching Your Polish-Jewish Ancestry*, Jeff Cymbler
21. *Jewish Immigration to Argentina: A genealogist's Perspective*, Gabriel Braunstein
26. *Questions and Answers: Beider's Surname Books*, Alexander Beider
27. *Mending Torn Memories: Genealogical Pursuits in Poland*, Yale J. Reisner
31. Panel on *Sources at the Leo Baeck Institute*, Karen Franklin and Frank Mecklenberg
34. *Sources in Germany for Jewish Research*, Peter Lande
47. *Crossing the Canadian Border: The St. Albans U.S. Passenger Arrival Lists*, William Schoeffler
49. *Case Studies in Advanced Jewish Research: Breaking Down Immigrant Brick Walls*, Eileen Polakoff

Society Makes the Front Page

The July 19, 1996 issue of the *Jewish Bulletin of Northern California* included front-page articles on success stories of SFBA JGS members. The articles contained insights on motivation, research strategies, how to use the internet for genealogical exploration and tips on contacting European archives. The nearly-three full pages given to Jewish genealogy reflects the rapidly-growing interest in family history.

Professor Jerzy Skowronek

We have just learned that Director General of the Polish State Archives, Professor Jerzy Skowronek, friend of Jewish genealogists, died in late July.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

On Monday, **August 19** in Palo Alto, Gordon McDaniel will discuss the use of various 19th and early 20th century sources available at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, how to access such volumes and working with foreign language text when you are unfamiliar with the language.

Among the materials Dr. McDaniel will bring is the 1895 all-Russia Vossia Rossiia which purports to cover all of the Russian Empire, and one or two slightly later volumes specific to a city or guberniia.

Dr. McDaniel, Ph.D. (Slavic languages and literatures), is a Slavic cataloger at the Hoover Institution and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He has researched his own genealogy for over ten years, and is currently involved in transcription for the Russian Era in Poland Project.

Our topic for Sunday, **September 8** (NOTE DATE CHANGE) in San Francisco, is "Beyond the Death Certificate". Gene Kaufman of Sinai Memorial Chapel will tell us about the types of information collected by funeral homes and what is available to the genealogist.

There is a wealth of information to be obtained from this often overlooked resource. Family contacts, addresses, vital and other personal data, burial societies and more, may be found through mortuaries, cemeteries and records other than death certificates.

As the oldest mortuary in San Francisco, Sinai possesses a tremendous history of the members of the San Francisco Jewish community. Gene will also discuss many of the Jewish rituals and traditions associated with death and burial. Join us for this interesting and informative program.

Looking ahead, we are planning the 11th Annual Jewish Genealogy Workshop, scheduled for Sunday, **November 17** in San Francisco. We are preparing a special four-hour program beginning at 11 a.m., featuring small working groups, each with an expert leader.

Topics will likely include: immigration and naturalization, Galicia research, census research, problem solving, and more. Translation services will also be offered. Two classes will be scheduled, including beginning Jewish genealogy. Expanded library materials will be available, as well as two microfiche readers. This will be a great opportunity to focus on your own personal interests and needs. More details will be announced as we firm up the schedule.

*Leave July 14-17, 1997 open for the
5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
To Paris and Beyond...*

Bay Area Genealogical Meetings

Wed **Aug 14** East Bay Genealogical Society (GS): 10 a.m.. Mormon Center, 4789 Lincoln Ave., Oakland

Wed **Aug 28** Marin Genealogical Society: *Women of the Oregon Trail* with Dr. Patricia Stanford, San Rafael, Call (415) 892-2370

Sat **Sep 14** Marin Genealogical Society: *Climbing Your Family Tree Can Be Fun*, Everton Publishers workshop 9 a.m.-5 p.m.. Novato United Methodist Church, Call (415) 892-2370

Mon **Sep 16** Sacramento JGS: *Using Regional Resources--Highlighting the Sutro Library in San Francisco and the Regional National Archives in San Bruno*, 7 p.m. Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento, Call (916) 633-9557

Thu **Sep 19** Livermore-Amador GS Study Group: *Beginning genealogy*, 7:30 p.m., LDS Church, 950 Mocho St., Livermore. Call Jolene Abrahams, (510) 447-9386

Sat **Sep 21** Livermore-Amador GS and LDS Livermore and Pleasanton Stakes: *Researching your Family History Seminar*, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., LDS Church, 950 Mocho St., Livermore \$10, Call (510) 447-3497 or (510) 447-9386

Wed **Sep 25** Marin GS: *Preservation, Restoration and the Archival Process*, with John Allred, San Rafael, call (415) 892-2370

Sat **Sep 28** Contra Costa GS: at 9 a.m., Sheila Benedict speaking on four different subjects, vendors. Contact Susan Swindell, call (510) 372-6996

Tue **Oct 8** Livermore-Amador GS: 7:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Emek, corner of College Ave and South M St., Livermore, call (510) 447-9386

Sat., **Oct 12** Concord/Walnut Creek FHCs: *Digging for your Roots Seminar*, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, \$10-preregistration, \$15-at door, (510) 827-4729

Thu **Oct 17** Livermore-Amador GS Study Group: 7:30 p.m., LDS Church, 950 Mocho St., Livermore. *Census records & Social Security Records.*, call Jolene Abrahams, call (510) 447-9386.

Mon **Oct 21** Sacramento JGS: "When I was growing up..." panel on what it was like growing up in a foreign city, 7 p.m. Albert Einstein Center, 1935 Wright St., Sacramento, call (916) 633-9557

Sat **Nov 9** San Mateo County GS: *Seminar in German Genealogy*. Redwood City Main Library, call (415) 572-2929

Ancestors Coming to PBS

In January 1997, the long awaited, ten-part *Ancestors* series will be made available to local PBS television stations. The series is an introduction to genealogy and family history, focusing on the impact that connecting with ancestors has on individuals and families. Powerful stories of people who have made the connection to their family's past are followed by practical instruction on how to begin this journey of a lifetime. KQED in San Francisco currently expects to broadcast the program in early spring.

Episode One: Getting Started. The episode dispels common misconceptions about genealogy and family history and introduces the pedigree chart as one of the most important tools used in searching for ancestors.

Episode Two: Looking At Home. What to look for and how to organize these bits and pieces of your past is explored.

Episode Three: Gathering Family Stories. Learn how even a novice can successfully interview and document living relatives.

Episode Four: The Paper Trail. This episode explains how the records that we find are witness to important events in our ancestors' lives. Rafael Guber shares with many Americans the knowledge that his family first came to America through Ellis Island. Rafael's respect for this event in his ancestors' lives compelled him to recreate the Ellis Island experience with 100 descendants of immigrants in period clothing. The different types of records that are found in genealogical research are examined.

Episode Five: Libraries and Archives. Tour the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, where people from around the world come to do genealogical research. Explore the different places to find genealogical records after you've exhausted resources at home, including city, state and national repositories that are most commonly used in genealogy.

Episode Six: Military and Census Records. These two major American records that are commonly used in genealogy searches are introduced.

Episode Seven: African-American Families. The focus is on the distinct challenge of researching African-American records. Myths are dispelled about African-American records and new information is introduced to help begin a successful search in this area.

Episode Eight: Your Medical Heritage. Learn how to begin building your own medical pedigree.

Episode Nine: High-Tech Help. Inside a prison, meet inmates who do genealogy with the help of computers and microfiche. See how you can find family history easier and more fun than ever with some high-tech help.

April 15, 1996 Palo Alto Meeting

Jewish Genealogy on the Internet with Bill Firestone

by Dana L. Kurtz, San Francisco, CA <DLKURTZ@ix.netcom.com>

Member Bill Firestone, who has created and maintains the Web pages for SFBA JGS and AJGS presented a primer on Web usage for Jewish genealogists. The live demonstration illustrated the variety of sites and the kinds of information available.

A great list of Internet sites can be found at: www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs (¹) or genie.netguide.net/URLs.html with links to all of them. If you have difficulty accessing a site, it may be busy, have moved, be down for maintenance etc. Try again later. For an excellent "introductory course" about the Internet, try: www.brandonu.ca/~ennsnr/Resources/Roadmap/welcome.html

Definitions

URL: Universal Resource Locator—an Internet address.

Link: a word/phrase/icon, usually underlined and in a different color, that will jump you to that Internet address (URL).

Download: Copying a file/program from the Internet to your computer.

JewishGen

For the Jewish genealogist JewishGen www.jewishgen.org has unparalleled resources. But the genealogist utilizing the Internet should not overlook a wide variety of other available "tools".

Search Engines

A search engine creates an index for a large group of databases or Web pages. No two search engines "search" precisely the same databases. Therefore, use more than one for each search you do.

When using search engines Yahoo, Alta Vista, Web Crawler, etc., type in the key word you wish to search on, for example "Warsaw". When you click <Search>, you will get back thousands of citations where the word "Warsaw" was found. To narrow the search, try "Warsaw + Ghetto" to generate a more focused listing. Be creative. Have you tried entering the surnames and towns you are researching?

When I entered the town name "Tykocin", I found a web site with interior and exterior photographs of the syna-

¹(Note: All Internet addresses given begin with: <http://> type carefully, sometimes upper and lower case does matter.)

agogue as it is today! In preparing for a trip to Lithuania, I found a narrative describing an interminable wait to cross the Polish border, a suggestion to drink Lithuanian beer rather than water, and a reference to the modern publication *Yerushalayim de Lita*.

Phonebooks/Directories/Reference

There are two general types of directories on-line today; e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers. The e-mail listings are a good way to find people with a common surname, or find out if someone you've lost track of has e-mail. These listings are largely incomplete: Most are missing corporate e-mail addresses, and AOL/Prodigy type listings among others.

The "phonebooks" include numerous international white and yellow pages, but often appear to be years out of date! But these are all great places to start!

Don't forget the many U.S. government web pages, such as the post office: You can easily find zip codes and more.

Software

Type "genealogy + software" into a search engine for a wide range of software available to be downloaded, often from the manufacturer's Web site. The makers of both Reunion and Family Tree Maker offer demo programs (modified versions of their retail product), while Brother's Keeper is a full-version shareware program.

What You Won't Find

Almost without exception, primary sources are not available on the Internet. This includes vital records, census and immigration records, etc.

Reminder: Use good virus detector utility, updated regularly. Downloaded files can potentially infect your computer. Numerous products are available for purchase, or you may go to www.mcafee.com to download a program.

Seminar Reviews

by Dana Kurtz

The 15th Annual Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy was held in Boston July 14-19, 1996. Here are reports on some of the fascinating papers.

Cemetery Project— Arline Sachs

The project was begun in Toronto in 1993. To date, 13,000 cemeteries have been identified in 81 countries. Over 200,000 names in 514 cemeteries have been indexed. The format follows that of the U.S. Commission for Preservation of America's Heritage abroad, which has provided support for the project. (The Commission is also cataloging synagogues and other sites of Jewish interest.)

The database is being developed in phases to provide: (1) cemetery identification; (2) identification of name within a particular cemetery; and (3) world-wide name search. Of these three phases, the first is currently available on the world-wide-web. There are presently no plans to put the other phases on the web. When approximately a million names are indexed, the project expects to produce a CD-ROM.

The Shoah Oral Testimony Project— Rosalie Franks

The goal of the project is to develop the largest on-line archive of video oral histories. Currently, the project has the names of 34,000 survivors world-wide, although the list is incomplete. Of these, 17,052 interviews have been conducted.

The project has a permanent staff of over 100, with 2800 volunteers world-wide. Of the 7,000 who applied, 2,914 were selected to be interviewers. Their training includes 25 hours of in-class work.

The interview procedure includes: (1) a pre-interview with the survivor, where an extensive survey is completed; (2) interviewer research based on the answers to the survey; (3) the interview itself, usually in the home of the survivor who is encouraged to show as many photographs as possible, and (4) an invitation to spouses, children and grandchildren to participate. During the interview, the focus is broken down as: 20% on pre-war life, 60% during the war and 20% post-war. The video is then sent to Los Angeles for cataloging and keyword indexing.

Repositories for the videos will include: the Museum of Jewish Heritage; the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles; the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC; Yad Vashem in Jerusalem; and the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University.

JewishGen — Susan King

A new tutorial has been added to the JewishGen web site. There is a purple button that will guide you through any and all features available through JewishGen.

JewishGen is the new home of the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder (JGFF). The web site will continue to make hard copies and fiche available.

Future enhancements include:

- on-line entry and editing of your JGFF entries and contact information;
- a search engine by keyword for the entire JewishGen site;
- "white pages" or a "marketplace" for professional services;
- TravelLink—information about travel to places of interest to the Jewish genealogist;
- real-time audio and video conferencing; and
- linking of the JGFF, REIPP, ShtetLinks, geographic database and more so that you can follow through all information available for a town or surname.

Surname Changes in Russian Poland— Lauren B. Eisenberg Davis

Things to keep in mind when looking for your family names:

- A husband may have taken wife's surname especially if her family is more prestigious.
- Records may identify people by their occupation, not surname; e.g., Wolf the fisherman.
- Patronymics are frequently used, especially if records were kept by the Jewish community. During the period of transition to surnames, it is often hard to discern if a name is a patronymic or a taken surname.
- Indexes may pick up the wrong surname from the actual record. You must read the actual record, not just the index
- The use of "v" meaning *vel* (also known as). e.g., Kurtz v Kvart.
- One individual may be identified inconsistently. For example, over the years, records for one woman might use her maiden name, patronymic or husband's surname. If she remarried, she may still be registered under the surname of her first husband on the birth certificate of a child from the second marriage.

5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy Research

Bibliothèque Nationale (National Library)

CARAN (National Archives)

Archives de Paris (Paris Archives)

Bibliothèque Gènealogique (Genealogical Library)

**Unlocking the Secrets of
Canadian Border Crossing Records—
William H. Schoeffler**

(Reviewed by Judy Baston)

Have you ever experienced high levels of frustration trying to find the elusive records of ancestors who entered the U.S. by the Canadian Border? A presentation by William Schoeffler helped shed a little light on the mystery.

If you were able, with relative ease, to find your ancestor listed on the Soundex Index covering all ports in the St. Albans border crossing district between 1895-1924 (from National Archives series M-1461, 401 rolls of microfilm), then why is the actual passenger manifest (from National Archives M-1464, 639 rolls) often virtually impossible to find? What makes the passenger list seem so elusive, Schoeffler explained, is the way the lists were collected in the first place. The "St. Albans Lists", as the Canadian border crossing lists are generally called, are a collection of lists from all border crossing stations, which were sent from time to time to St. Albans, VT. They were collected and bound (and, of course later microfilmed) not in the order of the border crossings but instead frequently in the order that the lists arrived by mail in St. Albans.

What does this mean for the researcher? Instead of giving up because an index card lists an arrival date that can't be found on the passenger manifest rolls for the right time period, bracket and look for the manifest several months before and after the listed date.

The full St. Albans lists are in the Washington, DC and Waltham, MA National Archives, and the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The San Bruno National Archives only has a small list of border crossings. A related list -- although not considered part of the St. Albans group -- is the National Archives series M-1478, which comprises 117 rolls of alphabetical card manifests of people entering the U.S. through the Port of Detroit from Canada during the years 1906-1954. A number of Jewish families who lived in the Midwest entered through this border crossing.

Many Jews leaving Eastern Europe came through England and found passage to Canada -- another part of the British Commonwealth -- less expensive than direct passage to the U.S. This makes solving the mysteries that make the St. Albans lists so elusive an important effort for Jewish genealogists.

***5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
To Paris and Beyond.....***

Which European Archive would you like to visit after Paris?

Miss Something at the Boston Seminar?

So who didn't? Even if you attended the whole conference, there is no way you could have heard all 60 speakers and performed all the research you might have planned. Many people have asked how they can get the materials that were available at the Seminar. Here are the details:

1. "Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area" by Warren Blatt.

This is a ground-breaking 275-page hardbound volume, a must, whether you had ancestors in Boston or not. This book smoothly combines detailed descriptions of Boston-area facilities with the "how-to" of doing research in Boston or anywhere. Nationally-unique institutions include Brandeis University Libraries, American Jewish Historical Society and Harvard University Libraries. Thirty-five pages of the holdings of the American Jewish Historical Society include a comprehensive never-before-seen list of its manuscript collections.

A merged yizkor book bibliography includes 529 titles held at Harvard, Brandeis and Boston Public Library. An appendix lists Jewish periodicals in the Brandeis Library system, including 150 not-to-be-found in the computerized LOUIS catalog. Another appendix extends the *Morton Allan* directory by listing passenger ships entering the port of Boston 1891-1903.

Price: \$25 add \$5 for UPS shipping and handling to continental U.S. Order from JGSGB (see below).

2. "Syllabus of the 15th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, Boston: Beacon of Heritage" edited by Sharla Levine.

The Syllabus is a looseleaf binder with over 300 pages! For each talk given at the Seminar, you can find a biographical sketch of the speaker, and a brief summary of the talk. More than 160 pages of "lecture materials" --speaker handouts and reference materials--will be of great benefit while listening to many of the tapes. State-of-the-art information in the lecture materials makes it a valuable reference in itself. A sampling:

--Ted Gostin's "Preliminary Inventory of Russian Business Directories in Western Libraries";

--Hal Bookbinder's comprehensive chart of *guberniyas* and *uezds* ;

--Gabriel Braunstein's list of 18 JCA colonies in Argentina;

--Saul Issroff's four pages of contact addresses in South Africa;

--Bob Weiss' instructions on drawing detailed

maps of the villages around your ancestor's shtetl and survey of the literature on Jewish records in East European archives;

- contact details for records in Israel, Poland, Lithuania, Germany, Canada, U.S. National Archives, Boston Public Library and Massachusetts;
- help for internet beginners from Bruce Kahn and Susan King;

- how-to guides for such subjects as: deciphering Russian- and Polish-language documents, oral history and running a JGS volunteer program.

The list of advance registrants includes email addresses. The Seminar Family Finder is cross-referenced by surname and by town. (A roster of late registrants will be included with all orders.)

There is also material for anyone visiting downtown Boston, including maps and restaurant guides.

Price: \$25 plus \$5 for UPS shipping and handling to continental U.S. Order from JGSGB (see below).

3. "1996 Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research & Resources: Frequently Asked Questions" by Warren Blatt.

This nicely-formatted 33-page booklet form of the Jewishgen FAQ covers the areas most often inquired about in Jewish genealogy. It provides an excellent beginning point in Jewish genealogy and a brief reference source. It is perfect for those who have not yet become electronically-connected.

Price: \$12 plus \$2 for shipping and handling to continental U.S. Order from JGSGB (see below).

4. Official 15th Summer Seminar T-shirts.

There are still a few left for those who forgot to pick up their special memento of the wonderful event. These quality T's feature the blue lighthouse-beacon logo of the seminar. The shirts are available in two styles: (1) with large logo on the front (available in S, L, XL, XXL); and (2) with small logo on the front and, on the back, a fill-in-the-blank four-generation pedigree chart on a green tree design (available in L, XL). Style (2) comes with a marker pen.

Prices: (1) \$13.95, (2) \$14.95 (includes marker pen); Add \$3 for shipping and handling to continental U.S. Order from JGSGB (see below).

5. Audio Cassette Tapes.

These are available for most presentations. (Order from Repeat Performance, not from JGSGB). It is highly recommended that listeners also purchase a copy of the Syllabus (No. 2 above),

in order to follow some talks which had critical handouts.

Presentations are one tape each, except for the Beginner's Workshop by Nancy Arbeiter (three tapes); and the Opening Session, featuring Dr. Sol Gittleman, "This Jewish Century" (two tapes). A copy of the tape catalog with an order form will be included with any order from JGSGB.

The tape catalog is also available directly from: Repeat Performance, 2911 Crabapple Lane, Hobart, IN 46342; (219) 465-1234 (no email). Tapes are \$7.50 each, plus \$2 shipping for first tape, \$.75 each additional, up to a maximum of \$8 shipping. Add 10% to total order for foreign delivery. Do not order tapes from JGSGB.

You can order items 1, 2, 3 and 4, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST by mailing a check or money order to: Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, P.O. Box 610366, Newton, MA 02161-0366.

SPECIAL COMBO DEAL: PURCHASE A SET OF ONE OF EACH OF ITEMS NOS. 1, 2, 3, AND 4 FOR ONLY \$65 plus \$5 for shipping to continental U.S.

SPECIAL BULK DEAL: FOR ANY PURCHASE TOTALING \$100 OR MORE, SUBTRACT 15%; get quotation for shipping. (Deals cannot be combined.)

Removal of Martyrs' Names from IGI

The Mormon Family History Department has completed the removal of the names of Jewish holocaust victims from their International Genealogical Index ® (IGI) database. New databases delivered to the 2800 LDS family history centers in June reflect the deletions. This is the fulfillment of the landmark May 3, 1995 agreement between the Mormon Church and the Jewish community.

The Executive Director of the Mormon Family History Department, Elder Monte J. Brough, announced that a searchable database with the removed names has been forwarded to the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, Yad Vashem, Simon Wiesenthal Center and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The database is provided as an ASCII flat file on a compact disc together with the Universal Data Entry (UDE) software with accompanying templates to allow recording of additional genealogical data. Individual record fields include surname, given name(s), gender, event (usually birth), event date and event place. Similar fields are provided for marriage records.

Jewish Genealogical Family Finder

The Jewish Genealogical Family Finder has a new home at JewishGen Inc., the non-profit, on-line Jewish genealogical service, and will be known as the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF). The JGFF was previously maintained by Gary Mokotoff at Avotaynu, then by the New York JGS. Submissions made to NY-JGS are being returned.

There will be two ways for NEW submitters to enter NEW information: Paper forms are presently available from the SFBA-JGS, or can be downloaded from the JewishGen web site at <www.jewishgen.org>. In the near future, new entries may be made directly into the JGFF database through your on-line connection. Susan King of JewishGen hopes this capability will be available by the end of August.

When you submit information for the first time, you will be given an ID number and a password. This will allow you to update your own information on-line. Those who have previously submitted their surnames and towns already have an ID number (found in the printed JGFF or on-line). An announcement concerning distribution of passwords is expected by the first week of August.

Previously, the JGFF provided a name and address as contact information. Now, there will be two options: Name/address/email or Name/email. This is for both hard copy and on-line editions. If you do not want your name and address, or the full entry to be accessible on the Internet, you must advise JewishGen, Inc. in writing, or by email at <jgffhelp@jewishgen.org>. This option is also available on the submission form. If you do not have on-line access, you may utilize either the new JewishGen form or the earlier form for new entries. We will have copies of the new form available at all SFBA-JGS meetings. JewishGen, Inc. will continue to make a printed copy of the JGFF available, and hopes to publish a new edition late this fall.

All hard copy forms with new entries or updates should be mailed to: Susan E. King, President, JewishGen, Inc., 12 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100, Houston, TX 77046.

Although there is no charge for submissions, JewishGen, Inc. welcomes financial contributions (which are tax-deductible in the U.S.) to expand its services and develop a stable funding base.

5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy Research

Alliance Israélite Universelle Library (General Jewish)
Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine (Shoah)
Bibliothèque Medem (Yiddish)

Cemetery Project Data Disks

by Arline Sachs

All the data from the cemetery project is now available on a set of four floppy disks that will run on a DOS compatible computer. It needs to have six megabytes of data available on your hard disk.

You can order a set of disks from Arline Sachs by sending a check for \$20 for the disks and \$3 for postage within the U.S. If you are outside the USA please calculate how much it should cost to send it to you. Checks must be made out in U.S. dollars.

Make out the check for \$20 to "AJGS" and the check for \$3 to "Arline Sachs" for the postage. Send both checks to: Arline Sachs, 6212 Thomas Drive, Springfield, VA 22150-1220.

Genealogy Book Contest

Authors of genealogy and family history books will compete for \$1,000 in cash prizes in the 25th Anniversary London Bridge Genealogy Book Contest sponsored by the Genealogical Society of Lake Havasu City, Arizona. In 1971, 25 years ago, the world famous London Bridge found a new home in the American desert.

To be eligible genealogy and family history books must have been published since October 10, 1971, the date the London Bridge opened in Arizona, written in English and postmarked before October 10, 1996.

Judging criteria includes narrative presentation, generation organization, indexing, use of photographs, documentation of data, and historical relationships placing ancestors in historical context. Categories include local, county and church history, documented family histories and abstracted materials such as court records, census and cemetery data. Each author will receive copies of the judges' scoring sheets.

Cash prizes of \$1,000 will be awarded December 31, 1996. First place will receive \$500, second place \$250 and third place \$125. The Lake Havasu Genealogical Society will also award five honorable mention prizes of \$25 each.

Entrants donate one copy of their book for judging. All books submitted will become the property of the Lake Havasu genealogy society for their public library and research center.

Entries should be addressed to Don Foust, 3982 Trotwood Drive, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86406. Include your name and address with your genealogy or family history book. For further information: Lake Havasu Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 953, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405, (520) 855-7105 or Don Foust (address above) (520) 680-6257.

Backtracking to the "Old Country"

References and Example

by Robert Weiss

Knowledge of one's ancestor's town of origin and its neighboring towns is essential in obtaining records from archives. Often the records are found not in the ancestor's town, but in a district archive nearby. Also, families often moved from town to town within an area because of marriage or economic factors, and it is sometimes useful to search the records of the neighboring towns for family members.

This paper introduces two under-used references which can be used to construct detailed maps of a vicinity. An example is presented for the author's ancestral town of Kelme, Lithuania.

Finding Your Ancestors Town of Origin

A number of excellent books and articles have been written which outline the process of locating a residence prior to immigration to the U.S.

- Dan Rottenberg, *Finding Our Fathers—A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy*, New York, 1977
- Arthur Kurzweil and Miriam Weiner, *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*, Northvale, New Jersey, 1991
- Sallyann Amdur Sack, "Using U. S. Archival Records to Locate a Residence Before Immigration", *Avotaynu*, XI, 2, 1995
- Jeffrey K. Cymbler, "Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research—A Primer", *Avotaynu*, IX, 2, 1993
- Ralph N. Baer, "Determining an Ancestral Town in Germany", *Avotaynu*, IX, 2, 1993
- Stephen S. Barthel and Daniel Schlyter, "Using Prussian Gazetteers to Locate Jewish Religious and Civil Records in Poznan", *Avotaynu*, VI, 2, 1990
- Boris Feldblyum, "Our Elusive Ancestors", *Avotaynu*, XII, 1, 1996

Conventional Sources

Conventional sources of the birthplace of an immigrant include immigration and citizenship, census and vital records.

- Ship Manifests and Customs Lists
 - Index to Arrivals
 - Ship Arrival Lists
 - NEW: *Migration from the Russian Empire* Vol. 1 1875-82, Vol. 2 1882-86
- Citizenship Papers
 - Naturalization Indexes
 - U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC
 - district Courts
 - declaration of intent (First Papers)

- Census Schedules
 - city directories
 - enumeration district maps and guides
- Vital Records
 - birth certificates
 - marriage applications and records

Other Sources

- Governmental
 - World War I draft registrations
 - alien registrations
 - passport applications
 - state department records
 - social security applications
 - voter registrations
- Personal
 - letters and postcards
 - family oral histories
 - landsmanshaftn and fraternal societies

Where Once We Walked (WOWW)

WOWW is the new standard gazetteer of Eastern Europe locating East European towns with documented Jewish presence. It is used to locate the geographic coordinates of your ancestral town given that you have obtained its name from one or more of the above sources. But other methods must be used to locate neighboring villages if a detailed map is not available.

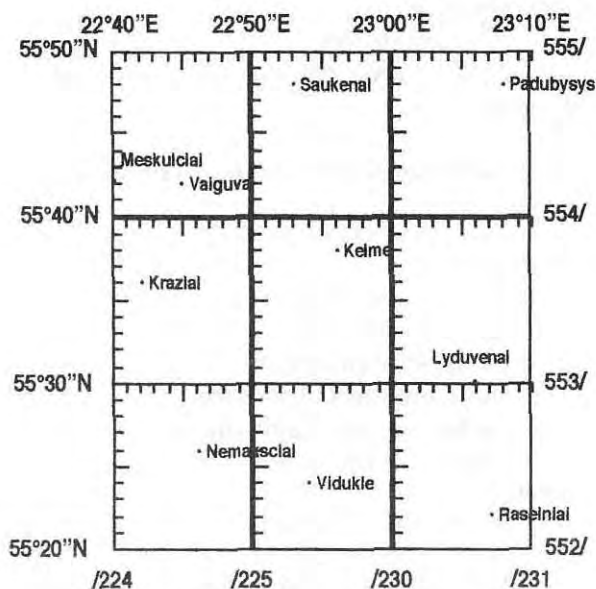
WOWW Companion

The *Companion* is a list of the same East European towns that are found in WOWW, but they are arranged in an ingenious geographic grid sequence that facilitates the location of neighboring villages.

Towns of East and Central Europe are arranged by geographic latitude in ten-minute increments, and then by longitude in ten-minute increments within each latitude band.

EXAMPLE: Find Towns in the Vicinity of Kelme, Lithuania

1. Find geographic coordinates of Kelme in WOWW or other map or gazetteer.
 - Kelme: 55°38"N / 22°56"E
2. Simplify and truncate latitude and longitude.
 - 55°38"N / 22°56"E becomes 553 / 225
3. Find coordinates in WOWW *Companion*.
 - 553 / 225 is on page 191
4. Draw blank map form with sector containing Kelme, and eight surrounding sectors.
5. Divide each block into 10 divisions on each side.
6. Plot position of each town on blank map using complete coordinates.



Map of 30x30-minute Kelme Vicinity
(Constructed using *WOWW Companion*)

Problem

WOWW Companion identifies only only nine towns within Kelme's 30-minute by 30-minute grid. It misses 50% of the towns shown on a modest scale map of Lithuania in the 30x30-minute (1/2x1/2-degree) area (approximately 25x35 miles) and shows none of the towns in the 10x10-minute grid containing Kelme.

Grid-Sequenced Eastern Europe Gazetteer

The *Gazetteer of Central and Eastern Europe* comprises three sets of microfiches developed by Gary Mokotoff using the Board of Geographic Names' gazetteer handbooks. There are approximately 330,000 Central and Eastern European town names listed— ten times the 33,000 names of 22,000 Jewish towns listed in *WOWW*. One set of fiches orders the towns by name, the second orders the towns by Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex, and the third set orders the towns by geographic coordinates. It is this third set, the *Gazetteer of Central and Eastern Europe—Grid Sequence Charts*, that is used in this illustration.

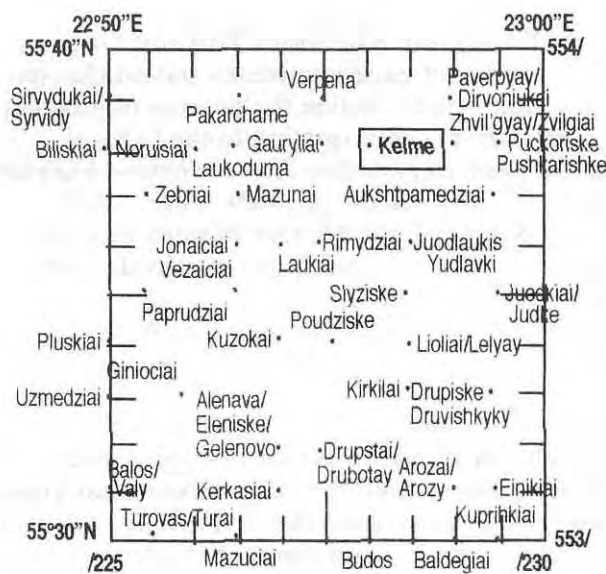
Solution

Repeating the above process with the *Gazetteer of Central and Eastern Europe-Grid Location Sequence* microfiches results in the location of 41 additional towns in the 10x10-minute (9x12-mile) neighborhood of Kelme. The synthesized map so produced is shown in the following figure. Comparison of this synthesized map with a 1:100,000 scale map validates the technique by demonstrating that most of the villages are mapped.

Conclusions

The process of tracing ancestors back to their former European homes consists of following their paper trail to determine their former home town name. Knowledge of the names of the neighboring towns facilitates obtaining of additional information from the archives.

A method has been illustrated for the determination of the small villages in the neighborhood of any East European town whose geographic coordinates are known. The method has been enabled by the development by genealogist Gary Mokotoff of an ingenious grid-sequenced gazetteer which indexes towns by geographic location. The synthesized maps so produced compare favorably in detail with large-scale maps which may be difficult to obtain.



Map of 10x10-minute Kelme Neighborhood
(Constructed using *Grid Sequence Charts*)

References

- Gary Mokotoff and Dr. Sallyann Amdur Sack, *Where Once We Walked—A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*, Avotaynu, Inc., Teaneck, NJ, 1991, \$69.50 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling (S/H).
Mokotoff, Gary: *WOWW Companion—A Guide to the Communities Surrounding Central & Eastern European Towns*, Avotaynu Monograph, Avotaynu, Inc., Teaneck, NJ, 1995, \$25.95 plus \$3.50 S/H.
Gazetteer of Central and Eastern Europe—Grid Sequence Charts, six microfiche, Avotaynu, Inc., Teaneck, NJ, 1995, \$15 plus \$1.50 S/H.

This is a condensed version of the paper presented by the author at the 15th Annual Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Boston, July 15, 1996.

Jewish Genealogical Resources in Vienna

compiled by Barry Klezmer

Last May, I was a third of the way into my summer European vacation and research quest. That was ten countries in seven weeks; Budapest to Barcelona. I told my partner that I would spend some extra time in Vienna researching his paternal grandfather's line. His grandfather changed his own name from Kleiner to Sterns after arriving in New York in 1915. I knew from a ship arrival record that a cousin (Arthur, age 9) came to New York in 1939 as part of an effort to save German Jewish children. The ship's manifest listed his parents and their street address in Vienna. My partner's grandfather and his own father took in the young boy until he was 18. Thereafter, there was no contact with the cousin. Apparently no effort was made to locate any family in Vienna.

My tourist efforts were to be in conjunction with my research. I picked up a copy of *Jewish Vienna, Heritage and Mission at the Jewish Museum*. This is an excellent primer for the tourist. It covers Vienna's Jewish past and present. There is an excellent article on the Jewish Museum and its current exhibits. On the inside back cover, there is a two-page map of central Vienna with all places of Jewish interest listed. I first headed to *Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien* (Vienna Jewish Community Center), to get some help with my quest.

The Jewish Community Center Archives are under the direction of Frau H. Weiss. The Archive hours are listed as Monday to Thursday 2-4 p.m., with appointments encouraged. Even though I arrived in the morning, I persuaded Frau Weiss to let me in and explain what it was I wanted help with—namely to go through civil indexes and look for Kleiners. This was unacceptable! She would not allow me access to the leather-bound volumes.

In the outer office, there was a young chain-smoking woman from the government. She was typing information from thousands of deportation cards of Jewish Austrians. I thought, a new source of information. They are in alphabetical order, so locating an individual or family would be easier. I learned that a few survivors and/or their families are filing for reparations. The government needs to verify claims.

Frau Weiss looked up "Kleiner," and found many. She wanted a specific first name before giving me any information. I gave the names of Arthur's parents Mendel and Chancie Taube. She wrote down on a piece of paper the fates of the parents. Mendel was deported to Buchenwald on February 1, 1940. He died there March 18, 1940. His remains were brought back to Vienna for

burial. Taube was deported to Riga (forced labor), on November 23, 1941. Frau Weiss said I could get more help by visiting Herr Pagler at the cemetery.

The bus ride from the center of Vienna to the *Zentral Friedhof* was a quick 30-minute ride. I met Herr Pagler in his trailer and found him to be very warm and interested about my quest. I noticed two aerial photographs on the wall showing the cemetery before and after the Allied bombings. There was a direct hit on the Jewish section. I was amazed to learn that this man has given so much of himself to his cause. I inquired if he or "Schalom" received any financial assistance from any Jewish community. He said that not only does he not receive assistance from a Jewish community, but that the one in Vienna doesn't contribute to its own cemetery. All support comes from visitors or from families outside of Vienna with relatives buried in the cemeteries.

Herr Pagler supports a database that contains about 250,000 Jewish burial names as of April 1996. He also maintains four Jewish cemeteries with minimal resources. Those cemeteries are *Zentral Friedhof* (Central Cemetery), Rossau Cemetery (the oldest Jewish cemetery with burials dating to the early 1700's), Währing Cemetery and Floridsdorf Cemetery.

On his Super Macintosh, each cemetery has its own icon. Icons are separated for Jewish sections. I told him I was interested in the name Kleiner. He checked Tor 1 (for older burials from around the 1870's), and Tor 4 (for later burials starting around 1910). He clicked and pointed and printed in only a few seconds. I told him I was looking for Mendel and his mother Bertha. He handed me a list of 16 Kleiners in the old cemetery and another list of 33 in the new cemetery. I immediately found Mendel and Bertha. Herr Pagler handed me a sketched map of the cemetery and drew directions for me to follow to locate these two tombstones. I was amazed to have so much information in my hands. Herr Pagler never asked for a fee. I gave him 20 shillings, worth more than U.S. money.

I made my way to Tor 4, and found several workers installing a new entrance way and repairing the gate doors. I came upon a breathtakingly-large copper-domed memorial chapel. Sadly, it was locked. It took me 45 minutes to locate Mendel's stone. I was surprised to find four small stones on top of it. "Just who put those there?" I thought, "And when?" I took my shaving cream to prepare the stone to bring out the text. I noticed on the printout that there was another Kleiner in the same row who was deported and died in Buchenwald the same time as Mendel. The two men were also three years apart in age. Was this his brother?

I spent some time trying to navigate myself through the back of the cemetery to locate my partner Steve's great-grandmother's stone. This older section of the newer cemetery needed some serious gardening. I had to tear away branches to expose Bertha Kleiner's somber gray stone. The date of death and age match my records from earlier research with the LDS and their vast collection of microfilm rolls of Vienna's Jewish vital records.

The next day, I returned to Frau Weiss to share my excitement with her. This woman *is* the archive. She has no assistants or clerical support from the Community Center. She has frequent problems with her computer. Her telephone appeared to be older than I am. I was frustrated that people known to her were allowed to go through the giant leather volumes of records, but I was not. There is no effort at conservation for any of the documents. There is no proper storage or handling of any of the items. The deportation cards are stored in library-style card catalogs. No one uses gloves. No efforts are made to keep documents out of direct sunlight. And smoking is permitted.

I asked Frau Weiss if I could get her help in locating information about the many Kleiners I found buried in the cemetery. She asked me to leave her a list of the names and dates of death. She would mail them to me. She never mentioned a fee for her services. I kept thinking it would be several years. One week after my return home from my trip I received a packet from her with handwritten notes about each person who died, their place of birth, cause of death, occupation, parents and address.

To contact Frau Weiss write to her at the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien, Department of Records/H. Weiss, 1010 Wien, Seitnestettengasse 4, Austria, EUROPE. Her telephone is (43 1) 531 04, telefax (43 1) 533 15 77.

Please understand that Frau Weiss works alone. She gets a tremendous amount of mail to sort through. When writing, please be as specific as possible and be "related" to the family about whom you are writing. I suggest making a donation based upon your request and time it will take for her to search. Because the family I was researching had its origins in Ukraine, Frau Weiss suggested I contact the Ukrainian Archive in L'viv for further help.

The last place I recommend for research is the City Municipal Archive, "Rathaus". collections for the Vienna Jewish community (and some other areas), start in 1939, about the time the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Jewish vital records end.

I spoke with a representative of the Rathaus about obtaining copies of Jewish vital documents. He said I would have to request them by mail from America. I would have to explain my relationship

to the individuals for whom I was seeking information, include copies of my passport and birth certificate and be very specific about the nature of my request. Government officials are more attuned to war reparations than to genealogical research. The address is: Magi-Evidenz, Heimatrolle, Rathaus, A-1082 Wien (Vienna), Austria, EUROPE. It was suggested that when corresponding by mail to Austria, include "Europe" in the address. A lot of Austria's mail ends up in Australia.

In a related matter, I want to share information about a fund raising effort by Herr Pagler for preservation and documentation of Jewish cemeteries. Herr Pagler is organizing a third concert of Jewish music by Austrian military musicians. Previous performances have raised awareness and much-needed funds. This year marks a breakthrough for Herr Pagler. He is bringing the musicians to America for coast-to-coast performances in September. Below is a schedule of the dates and towns. The exact locations will be announced in a few months. I strongly encourage support for the efforts of Herr Pagler and the musicians. Herr Pagler plans to retire in two years. Our support will help to ensure the continued life of the Vienna Jewish cemeteries.

The United States concert schedule for *Schalom* September 2-24, 1996 is as follows:

Sep 2	New York, NY
Sep 6	Boston, MA
Sep 8	Chicago, IL
Sep 10	Seattle, WA
Sep 12	San Francisco, CA
Sep 15	Los Angeles, CA
Sep 18	Dallas, TX
Sep 20	Miami, FL
Sep 22-24	Washington, DC

Austrian Reparations

by Allan Blacher, London, England
ablacher@itl.net, <http://user.itl.net/~ablacher>

Through my involvement in a London-based charity concerned with providing care for elderly refugees from Nazi persecution, I have become aware of an initiative by the Austrian authorities to make compensation payments to Austrians who left the country to escape Nazism. The Austrians appear unusually positive and well-organised in this process and can be contacted at:

Nationalfonds fur Opfer
Dr.Karl-Renner-Ring 3
1017 Wien - Parlament Austria
telephone: (43) 1 408 12 63-64
fax: (43) 1 408 03 89

My only interest is in bringing this potentially valuable opportunity to the attention of those who deserve and might benefit from it.

Trip to Argentina

by Rob Weisskirch

Email: RSWeisskirch@ucdavis.edu

From September 1 to 17, 1995, I visited Buenos Aires, Argentina to connect with family and pursue genealogical research. In the United States, I have found great difficulty finding good genealogical information using the Mormon Family History Library. Moreover, my own family's ties are deeply ingrained in Jewish Argentina. I was frustrated by my inability to obtain information.

During my visit to Buenos Aires, I wanted to visit the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) building to find out what archives were left. On July 18, 1994, an unknown person drove his car directly into the building and exploded a bomb, killing 86 people and injuring hundreds of others. No group has ever claimed responsibility. The six-story AMIA building at Pasteur 633 housed a loan center, social halls, library, cultural institute, offices of the Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA) and the Instituto Científico Judío (IWO). Books about Jewish Argentina available in the U.S. frequently cite the archives of the AMIA as sources of information.

I set out with my uncle to see the bombed-out building before going to the temporary home of the AMIA in a nearby building. The devastation remaining a year later is amazing! The building sits on a fairly commercial street in a largely Jewish area of Buenos Aires known as "el Once". The bomb damaged surrounding building and shops as well. As I paused to take a picture, the police guard standing nearby accosted my uncle and me to say that photographing of the bombed-out building was not allowed. The guard said that recently some journalists had been involved in a test to check security in the Jewish community after the bombing. Since then, written permission must be obtained from the AMIA before taking photographs.

Security is extra-tight at the temporary building at Ayacucho 632. Every Jewish institution now has short cement pillars poured into the sidewalk to protect the building from another car-bomb. Upon approaching the building, a guard checked my uncle's membership card, looked at my passport and inspected our backpacks. Identification again had to be shown on entry before being buzzed in through a hallway, one at a time, and then buzzed into the lobby. We went to the library to find out what information was available. The library is a small room with stacks of books in several languages, including Spanish, Hebrew, Yiddish and even English. The director of the library assisted us but then asked us to return later in the week for an

appointment.

Two days later we returned and I set out to find out what resources remained after the bombing. Licienciada Ana E. Weinstein provided me with what sparse information that she could. Basically, she said that genealogical interest is low in the Jewish community in Argentina. Because the government is very slow in processing documents and requests, few people attempt to trace their roots. However she did name a few potential sources of information.

Jewish cemeteries keep a database of the families buried there. These records are maintained at the cemeteries (specifically, Tablada and Verasatelli) and are arranged chronologically.

The Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos (CEMLA) located at Independencia 20, 1099 Buenos Aires, Argentina maintains a database of people who entered Argentina via Buenos Aires between the years 1874-1925. Beyond this, the Centro de Estadísticos y Censo (Center for Statistics and the Census) and the Immigration Department may have records.

The AMIA has computer lists of members. However covers only current members. Members who stopped paying dues were removed from the computer database.

Unfortunately, Listos de Socios (lists of associates) were destroyed by the bomb-blast and subsequent water damage. However, 30 of 98 books of various dates remain of Libros de Ingreso (membership books), which Lic. Weinstein said were fairly detailed descriptions of families. But these records are uncataloged and unavailable to the public while they are in storage.

Although visiting the AMIA building was culturally interesting, it was genealogically disappointing. However, I had previously heard of the CEMLA office via JewishGen on the internet and figured I would give that office a try.

I was told that CEMLA would need to know a name and the date of arrival. In addition, they charge for their services—five pesos per search (at the time, 1 peso=\$1). The following week I traveled down near the river front to visit CEMLA and search for relatives who migrated to Argentina in the late 1890's, the 1910's and the 1920's. Prior to my trip, I had sent names and the appropriate money but had not received a reply (and still have not, although the check was cashed). The office is only open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-2 p.m. When I arrived at 11 a.m., there was a line of people out the door. Apparently, in order to receive governmental benefits, residents must prove that they or their parents were Argentine residents also. The line also contained genealogists. When it be-

came my turn, the sole person at the computer was patient to try all the variations I requested.

In Argentina, many names were changed to reflect Spanish pronunciation and spelling. For example, my great grandmother's name was Amalia DEREMBAUM, but in Spanish it could have been DERENBAUM, DERENBON or DEREMBOIM. Another example would be the use of "j" to write the "ch" sound in English, e.g., Chaim would be Jaim. Another would be "i" for a phonetic "y" sound, i.e. Yisel for Yusel. While searching for my family names, I offered various spellings and asked that the roots of the words be searched. The worker obliged.

Although I got no direct connections, I did get some individuals with the same names arriving around the times I sought. The CEMLA information includes name, date of arrival, port of departure, name of ship, occupation, religion (either listed as "varios" or "Israelita" for my findings) and age. For common names they will print a list of all the individuals with that surname. Now armed with that information I hope to be able to check ship records and see if I can make some old country connections that could be useful.

Hopefully, as interest grows in Argentina, Jews will begin to seek out information and make it more accessible. If I can answer any further Jewish Argentina questions, please contact me.
[Ed Note: Since the writing of this article a JGS has been formed in Buenos Aires. See the following notice.]

JGS of Argentina Established

by Paul Armony, camcom@satlink.com

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Argentina has just been founded. What follows is a transcription of the proceedings of the meeting that took place on July 16, 1996, for the purpose of founding the Jewish Genealogical Society of Argentina (Sociedad Argentina de Genealogia Judia).

In Buenos Aires, on July 16 1996, the undersigned have established the Organizational Committee for the creation of the Sociedad Argentina de Genealogia Judia, whose goals are as follows:

- a) Trace the genealogical and historical roots of the Jewish Community of Argentina;
- b) Coordinate the exchange of information with other societies of similar goals;
- c) Preserve and allow access to all the available documentation related to these goals;
- d) Research the existing correlation between historical and genealogical facts; and
- e) Encourage the interest of younger generations in researching their individual roots.

Signed:

Marcelo Benveniste <marben@einstein.com.ar>
Hector Mondrik <topt@lvd.com.ar>
Silvia Borosowski <adaszko@danad.fsoc.uba.ar>
Jacobo Herbst <herbst@impsat1.com.ar>
Horacio Hirsch <horacio@hirsch.satlink.net>
Ruben Weiser <weiser@ba.net>
Martin Hadis <7068706@mcimail.com>
Alberto G. Chester <mafac@satlink.com>
Paul Armony <paul@ccarissr.satlink.net>

In addition to those signing above, Mr. Boruch Fajner and Mr. Natalio Daitch, who were not able to attend the meeting, have also expressed their interest and support.

Atlanta Center Opens

The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum of the Atlanta Jewish Federation opened on June 20. It is the largest Jewish Museum in the south-east— 17,000 square feet. The museum has six core galleries, including the ARCHIVES, "The Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Community Archives and Genealogy Center". The Center is the repository for individual and family papers, business and organizational records, oral histories and an extensive collection of genealogical research books and materials. The genealogy center also contains microfiche and microfilm readers (printers are included in future plans), and two computers with Internet access. The LIBRARY holds a collection of resource material to support archival and genealogical research.

It will be several months before the genealogy center will have enough material to warrant a research trip. The generous endowment will provide for continual additions to the collection.

Other galleries include: HERITAGE, the history of the Jews of Atlanta 1845-present; HOLOCAUST, a permanent exhibit explaining the holocaust through historical photographs, documents, personal memorabilia, family pictures and videos of survivors who made new lives in Atlanta; TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS, the Special Exhibitions Gallery will feature different exhibitions during the year; DISCOVERY CENTER, hands-on activities related to the Museum's exhibitions and to Jewish heritage in general.

The museum address is 1440 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309-2837 Phone (404) 873-1661. (Thanks to Howard Margol, President, JGS of Georgia)

*5th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy
Paris July 14-17*

On-Line News

by Dana L. Kurtz (with thanks to Steven Zedeck)

A newly available Internet-based database is potentially a valuable resource for those researching family from Russian Poland (The Kingdom of Poland). The REIPP (Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project) was begun in 1995 by Steven Zedeck of New Hampshire and Michael Tobias of Scotland.

Prior to 1868, vital records for this region were written in Polish. After the Polish insurrection in the early 1860's, the Russian tsar decreed that all records for the region be kept in Cyrillic. Frustrated by this obstacle to their research, Zedeck and Tobias created a searchable database of index transliterations. Zedeck coordinates the worldwide transliteration activities and Tobias developed and maintains the computer database.

The project features post-1867 indices to Jewish birth, marriage and death records from Russian Poland, and some pre-1868 indices of Polish language records both found in LDS (Mormon) microfilms. Recently added is an index to 1912 Bialystok voter records.

As of July 27, 1996 the database contains an index to more than 95,000 Jewish vital records from 45 towns. Data are available for: Bakalarzewo, Bialystok, Checiny, Czyzewo, Filipow, Grajewo, Izbica, Jablonka, Kodon, Krasnystaw, Lomza, Losice, Nowogrod, Nur, Olkusz, Opatow, Ostrow Maz., Ozarow, Piotrkow Trybunalski, Plock, Przedsborz, Przerosl, Puns, Radom, Radomsko, Radzilow, Rutki, Sejny, Snaidowo, Suwalki, Szczeczesyn, Szczuczyn, Tomaszow Mazowiecki, Tykocin, Wasosz, Wawolina, Wizajny, Wizna, Wloszczowa, Wysockie Mazowiecki, Wyszogrod, Zambrow and Zychlin.

Searches are made by surname, and one of the following:

(1) By the Guberniya of Russian Poland 1867-1917 (including "extras" for the Pale of Settlement (Vilna, Grodno, Volynhia), Galicia and Prussian Poland). Use the following abbreviations in your query: Ep-East Prussia; Ga-Galicia; Gr-Grodno; Kl-Kalisz; Ki-Kielce; Lo-Lomza; Lu-Lublin; Pi-Piotrkow; Pl-Plock; Ra-Radom; Si-Siedlce; Su-Suwalki; Vi-Vilna; Vo-Volynhia; Wa-Warszawa.

(2) By the Province 1945-1975 (as per the LDS).
Bi-Bialystok; By-Bydgoszcz; Gd-Gdansk; Ka-Katowice; Ki-Kielce; Ko-Koszalin; Kr-Krakow; Lo-Lodz; Lu-Lublin; Lw-Lwow; Ol-Olsztyn; Op-Opole; Po-Poznan; Rz-Rzeszow; Sz-Szczecin; Wa-Warszawa; Wr-Wroclaw; Zi-Zielona Gora.

(3) By any town specified by the researcher (global).

Queries are sent via email, and are limited to three searches per request, or one search per global surname request. To submit a query send an email message to: <reipp-db@jewishgen.org>, leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the message use the following syntax ("_____" represents your input):

SURNAME: _____ PROV: _____
SURNAME: _____ GUB: _____
SURNAME: _____ TOWN: _____
SURNAME: _____

For example, at 4 p.m. on July 26 I submitted: "Surname: Kurtz Prov: Wa"

Nine minutes later I received a response which included:

RESULTS OF DATA SEARCHES Run on Friday 26 July 1996

11 Matching records found as follows:

Searching for SURNAME: KURTZ PROV: WA (594000)

Database OSTRGOLD.DBF Ostrow Mazowiecki

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	FATHER'S NAME	TOWN	YEAR	AKT	TYPE RECORD
GEIRCZ	Dawid	Moszk	Ostrow	1828	17	B
KROSZA	Wolf	Abram	Ostrow	1831	33	B
GRYCZ	Boruch	Jankel	Ostrow	1842	24	B
GRYCZ	Ick		Ostrow	1849	98	B
GRYCZ	Szmul		Ostrow	1849	119	B
GRYTZ	Chaja	Basi	Ostrow	1852	82	D

The database contains an index to the LDS microfilm number 594000 for Ostrow Mazowiecki. "Kurtz" has been soundexed for the above results. Individual records are displayed, each with the year and record identifier (Akt). At this time, these are the only matches for that soundex in the province of Warszawa.

Zedeck advises to keep a few things in mind when using this database:

(1) Be very broad minded when it comes to the spelling of names. If other pieces of the puzzle fit, don't discard the record if the name is not spelled exactly as you expect. To allow for this, the search uses the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex.

(2) This database consists of registrations of events, not the events themselves. Many events were registered long after they actually occurred. Zedeck has seen registration delays of ten years or more. Also note that some records reference events in nearby towns.

The database is growing almost daily, adding new towns and years. If your search today brings limited success, try again frequently. You can stay up to date on the progress of the project by subscribing to the REIPP listserv. Send an email message to: <listserv@jewishgen.org>. The body of the message should read "sub reipp" or "sub reipp_d" to receive digests. To unsubscribe, the body should read: "unsub reipp" or "unsub reipp_d". Currently, subscribers come from more than 12 countries. The ultimate goal is to include the over two million records from nearly 2,000 rolls of LDS microfilm of 19th century Jewish vital records. Future plans for the REIPP include the addition of unindexed vital records, non-vital records and records unindexed by the LDS.

Information on the REIPP can be found at <www.jewishgen.org/reipp/index.html>. REIPP is seeking volunteers to make photocopies of specific vital record indices, who are knowledgeable in Cyrillic to help with transliteration or who can contribute indexes they have produced themselves. Financial contributions are also welcome, and used to hire more Russian transliterators.

Contact Steve Zedeck, 25 Cathedral Circle, Nashua, NH 03063, <saz@JLC.net>.

Begin at the Beginning

by Sherrill Stern Laszlo

This new column will discuss basic tools, strategies and ways of looking at some research problems.

Consulting Government Records

Consulting records of the United States government before holdings of the state, county or town, provides you with a framework and a reference point for your research. I always consult the census and the Social Security Index before even thinking about ordering a death certificate. The death certificate will tell you with absolute authority that someone died on a specific date, usually the cause of death, and most likely where he or she is buried, or at least which funeral home handled the arrangements. Other "biographical" information is likely to be fictional or wrong. Remember it was not provided by the decedent himself but by some overwrought relative, friend or even nursing home person. The census on the other hand, provides you with the names of family members living together, the year of immigration, the naturalization status as of that date, whether the person owned property, occupation, and other information.

Suppose you are investigating a female line. It is more difficult because you need to search for her maiden name. You could get lucky and find it on the death certificate because her spouse gave the information. But why not go to the source, the woman herself? You can do this by examining the marriage application, if available. She was probably in her early twenties and knew her own name, birthplace and occupation, completed the informa-

tion asked for on the form by herself and signed the form in her own handwriting. The marriage application is the only vital record that is completed by the subject individual and is sometimes overlooked.

Another way to approach the person you are studying is to find out if he or she had any contact with the legal system. A quick look at the microfiche in the county superior court or letter to the court clerk can tell you if your relative had a prior marriage or divorce, or any other issue with the local government. You can order the file and look at whatever is in it. The same thing is true of probate files but these can cost you, especially if you are trying to get one from New York. The LDS library has the index of wills and probates on microfilm by county within state through about the mid 1970's, and the actual records through about 1919. But the index will give you the file, docket or liber number and it is almost always easier and cheaper to order materials from a court if you already have the reference number. Probate files contain much useful genealogical material sometimes including the death certificate.

For me the most efficient way to acquire information is always to think about who generated the document and how reliable the source of that information was.

Frequently Asked Questions

The answers to many specific questions are available on-line using the FAQ files (Frequently Asked Questions) of the Jewish genealogy newsgroup and website (JewishGen). These are a resource that should not be overlooked by any researcher--beginner or advanced.

Researchers who are not on-line should peruse the index below of available FAQ's and, if interested in any of the topics, arrange to see them using their local public library internet access. [A hard copy of the latest FAQ's was printed for the recently concluded Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy and is available from the JGS of Greater Boston. See Page 9- Ed]

JewishGen FAQ Index

Note: To request a file, send an email message to the encoded title (first column) followed by "@jewishgen.org" with no body text. Your file will be returned to the initiating email address.

avindex	Avotaynu Index to the First Ten Years- '85-'94
balch	Info on Balch Institute (Phil. PA) Holdings
belarusv	J. Vital Records from Belarus at LDS Library
biblio1	Jewish Genealogy, Basic sources bibliography
calndr	The Jewish Calendar
cerecord	USHMM- Records of Nazi Concentration camps
cem-info	About cemetery recording project
cite	Citation Guide for Internet Sources
copymyth	Ten big myths about copyright explained
dict	Dictionary of Judaica (Key words and phrases)
docupres	About document preservation
famnews	Directory of Family Newsletters
fiche	Microfiche available from Avotaynu.
gbbs	www - Genealogy Bulletin Boards (Fidonet BBS) List.
gedenk	Essential Gedenkbuch, translation.
geninet	www - Genealogy Resources on the Internet
gforms	Genealogy forms/ ancestor charts
ggalicia	About Gesher Galicia SIG (Bridge to Galicia)
grodno-info	About Grodno (Guberniya) SIG
health	Your family health tree.
hungr	About Hungarian SIG
jgff-info	Jewish Genealogical Family Finder (JGFF)
jgpl	Jewish Genealogical People Finder (JGPF)
jgsaddr	Jewish Genealogical Societies - address list.
jgsnws	Jewish Genealogical Newsletters
landshaf	Directory of Landsmanshaftn in Israel
landsmen	"Landsmen" journal (Suwalk-Lomza)
lauder	Lauder Foundation, Jewish Inst. of Poland
ldsagree	LDS Baptisms of Holocaust victims- agreement
ldsentr	About LDS Family History Centers
lithtrav	Travels and Research in Lithuania
litvksig	About the Litvak SIG
montreal	Vital records in Montreal (Quebec)
namfaq0	The Names of The Jews (Preliminary FAQ)
nyccems	NYC metro area cemeteries directory
passndx	How to Interpret Passngr.Arrival Soundex Index
polandv	Vital records in Poland
postal	U.S. international postal rates, eff. 9July95
profgen	Hiring a professional genealogist
quest	Oral history interview, questions and topics

reipp-info	Russian era indexing of Poland Project
related	Relationship chart. How are we related?
romsig	Romania Special Interest Group
routes	Routes to America (four main routes)
rusmil	Military conscription in 19th century Russia
safrica	Researching Jewish genealogies in South Africa
sefard5	About Sephardim and Conversos
spielbrg	Holocaust survivors videotaping project
ssa	Social Security Administration FAQ
surfnet	Surfing the Net for Relatives
transl	Directory of foreign language translators
ukgen	Beginning Family History from UK Perspective
wwidraft	WWI draft registration cards
yadva	About Yad Vashem Hall of Names
yidtran	Yiddish/Eng. Transliteration Guide, YIVO style.
yizkor-info	About Yizkor [Memorial] Book project
yizlibs	Libraries, archives with Yizkor Book holdings
yizret	Retail Establishments w/ Yizkor Book Holdings

ASK LILLIAN

by Lillian Wurzel

Send your questions to Lillian Wurzel, 2930 Roma Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051-6848, (408) 984-3718. Lillian will try to answer your questions or find someone who can, and the answer will be published in ZichronNote.

Bill Firestone asked about conservators who can restore papers and/or photographs. As I told Bill, I'd go to the best source—museums who deal with this problem daily.

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (De Young and Palace of the Legion of Honor) has a conservation service called the "Western Regional Paper Conservation Laboratory". Once a month (Call Debra Evans at (415) 750-7691 for dates and times) there is a free conservation clinic providing advice on care, display and storage of collections. They also give information on the treatment of damaged prints, drawings, documents and photographs. And that's not all! The Museums offer a full range of museum-quality services on a fee basis for individuals, galleries and other institutions.

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art conservation studio recommend two conservators:

-Kathy Orlenko Ashcavi for document and book conservation. Her telephone number in Santa Clara is (408) 261-8278;

-Theresa Andrews specializes in papers and photographs. Her studio is in Oakland and she may be reached at (510) 482-4698.

Check *ZichronNote* February, 1996 for Dana Kurtz' article "Photo and Document Preservation" and my postscript to her article.

SFBA JGS member and *ZichronNote* contributor Karen Zukor specializes in conservation of paper and other fiber artifacts. Call (510) 652-7915

ZichronNote

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The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area
Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XVI, Number 3

August 1996

Major Articles

<i>Ancestors</i> Coming to PBS	Dana Kurtz	5
New Microfilm at San Bruno Archives	Bert Oppenheim	6
Russia Rethinks Records Exchange (J. Puzzanghera, <i>SJ Mercury News</i>)	Robert Weiss	6
San Francisco Recorder's Office Updates Naturalization Records	Gayle Leyton	6
Seminar Reviews—15th Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Boston	Dana Kurtz, Judy Baston	7
Miss Something at the Boston Seminar?	Warren Blatt	8
Removal of Martyrs' Names from IGI	Robert Weiss	9
Backtracking to the "Old Country"—References and Example	Robert Weiss	11
Jewish Genealogical Resources in Vienna	Barry Klezmer	13
Austrian Reparations	Allan Blacher	14
Trip to Argentina	Rob Weisskirch	15
JGS of Argentina Established	Paul Armony	16
Atlanta Center Opens	Howard Margol	16
On-Line News	Dana Kurtz	17

Departments

Calendar of Events	1	Meeting Calendar	5
Masthead	2	Local Resources	6
About This Issue	2	European Research	13
Society Pages	3	Begin at the Beginning	18
Upcoming Programs	4	Ask Lillian	19

Contributors to this Issue

Paul Armony, Judy Baston, Allan Blacher,
Warren Blatt, Barry Klezmer, Dana Kurtz,
Sherrill Laszlo, Gayle Leyton, Howard
Margol, Bert Oppenheim, Marian Rubin,
Arline Sachs, Rob Weisskirch, Lillian Wurzel

ZichronNote

3916 Louis Road

Palo Alto CA 94303-4541